



**MEETING SUMMARY #3**  
**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND FERRY TERMINAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**  
**COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP**  
**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND COMMONS, BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA**  
APRIL 19, 2006 – 5:30 – 8:00 P.M.

**Welcome & Meeting Overview**

Ann Bernheisel, Community Advisory Group (CAG) Vice-Chair, welcomed CAG members and said that she was excited to see how many people participated at the first public workshop on Saturday, April 15. She then welcomed members of the public and asked them to fill out a comment card with their name and a brief description of their comment. Ann then planned to collect the cards at the end of the meeting prior to opening up the floor for public questions and comments. She added that the purpose of the meeting was for the CAG to look at public input to see how it will influence their process and the next steps for the project.

Marcia Wagoner, Facilitator, acknowledged that some CAG members were missing but the team felt it was important to hold the meeting shortly after the workshop, so comments were fresh. In addition to providing a summary, she noted that WSF was recording the meeting to provide to those who were absent.

**Colman Dock Scoping Notice**

Joy Goldenberg, WSF Customer & Community Relations Manager, announced the Colman Dock scoping meetings on April 20 and 25. The project is also facing many of the same issues as the Bainbridge Island Ferry Terminal Improvement Project, including multi-modal connections and holding issues. Construction is planned to start in 2011. WSF is putting together a CAG for the Seattle Ferry Terminal Project, so interested parties were encouraged to apply. If CAG members were interested, WSF could arrange a presentation about the project at an upcoming meeting.

**Project Update**

Rob Berman, Project Manager, reviewed the outcome of the April 3 meeting to discuss the Purpose & Need with a few interested CAG members (see Meeting Summary). As a result of feedback from CAG members, the team has made the Purpose & Need more understandable by revising the language and is showing the need elements as key bullets outlining "Project Priorities."

WSF also made the determination that dock widening, previously considered a near-term project, should be part of the master plan. For environmental and design purposes, it made the most sense to roll it into the master plan for the terminal.

Rob then reviewed the status of coordination efforts with the City of Bainbridge Island. For a couple of months now the City has been interested in whether there may be an opportunity for a joint master planning process. City staff was working on proposal to send to council. If approved, WSF and the City would then integrate their



processes on land use issues. The terminal project may slow down a little so the City process could catch up.

#### Comments/Questions:

- Rik Langendoen asked if it was still possible to provide feedback on the Purpose & Need. *Yes, it is a draft document and there is plenty of time to provide feedback.*
- Don Willott said he appreciated the documentation of the April 3 meeting.
- Janice Shaw asked if the dock widening budget was part of the \$160 million terminal project budget. *Yes.*
- Rik asked if the city had a vision as to how they would integrate with the WSF project. *Joint design charrettes and some parallel work are possibilities.*
- Merrill Robison said in 1998 the terminal master plan blended well with the city's Winslow Master Plan. *Yes, it makes a lot of sense to integrate processes. Kitsap Transit is also involved in a 305 study. There is a lot going on, with no solid plan yet, but it's starting to pull together.*
- Rik added that it also made sense from a funding perspective.
- Don said he delighted to hear the discussion was taking place and asked if WSF had been approached about the 305 corridor study. *Yes, Rob was asked to be on the Technical Advisory Committee, but hasn't been alerted to meetings yet.*
- Kevin Dwyer asked when Kitsap Transit would take control of the Unocal site.
- Rik said that Ecology indicated they would accept a parking lot since it could act almost as a barrier at the site. *There has also been some talk about a park.*
- Janice asked if the City was part owner of the Unocal site. *Yes.*
- Kevin said the City's plan would go all the way to Ferncliff. *We've been party to some discussion, but are still not sure how far up it will go.*
- Don commented that it was important to keep a non-motorized corridor in mind with a shared use path off the side.
- Rik said that David Hewitt's concept also brought into play the Cave Avenue access looked at by Winslow Tomorrow.

### **Review Community Feedback from Workshop**

Marcia Wagoner noted that the project team was interested to hear member's thoughts on the community workshop. She asked each member to share a few key things they learned at the workshop.

#### Comments/Questions:

- Don said that people feel very strongly about the ferry system integrating with the community. Before the workshop, he wondered whether this group was oriented more toward transportation issues. Community integration is truly is an island value and people will be watching the project closely. The most striking thing for him was that



it is very useful to show desire lines. However, the ones indicated on the workshop displays were clearly wrong. The biggest desire is to go toward Town & County.

- Merrill thought the workshop did an excellent job at bringing people together. He came away with the notion that buses should unload first, cars last, with pedestrians and bikes in the middle. The grade should be high for parking. As an older citizen, he liked the idea of moving walkways. The Kiss & Ride drop off and pick up should also be treated separately. WSF owns land that the city has parking on, and it should be leased to the city and not part of a multi-use facility. Loading ramps need to change if walk-ons increase as projected. Merrill added that he was frustrated that in the Draft Long-Range Strategic Plan, WSF didn't call for a third ferry on the Seattle/Bremerton run until 2014.
- Kevin Dwyer was not able to attend the workshop, but he wants to make sure that when tourists arrive off the ferry they need to see businesses along their route. As the area east of Harbor Square gets developed, they should be mindful that there will be another route away from the core downtown businesses.
- Rik thought the workshop was very much a success, with a good turnout considering the other community events going on at the time. Rob also already addressed coordination with the city, which Rik believes will benefit the project and the community. To date, the community perception regarding WSF is that they operate unilaterally.
- Dolores Palomo said it was a good meeting and very well organized. When her team went over the three concepts, they initially agreed they didn't like the transit deck. However, after the team lead discussed the transit deck, she began to think about it in a different way. It could protect cars from the weather and the high elevation of the deck alleviated concerns about fumes. The aesthetic issue is just a matter of good design. So, the CAG may need to reconsider their feedback on the transit deck. In addition, the island really needs a park and ride lot in a central place with a frequent shuttle to help reduce congestion.
- Janice shared that the city is not at full potential now on the waterfront, but there is every intention to make it a cool place. The spirit at the workshop was open and she was surprised it was also optimistic. Public input seemed to matter and could inform the project and make it better. Twenty to thirty years ago, big projects didn't have this kind of communication. She was happy to see emphasis on the importance of non-motorized, with discussions including the experience of queuing up along the on ramp. The terminal building didn't get a high priority ranking since right now it is such a deficient facility, but it does have high potential. If improved, people will look at the terminal in a different sort of way. There are many cool terminals nationally to look at as examples. The workshop was very well-run.
- Ann Bernheisel agreed that the workshop was well done and liked the format with the report back presentations. She said participants were looking at long trestles for the project and how they could make it work. Someone also brought up how bicycles should get from the



transit deck to the loading deck, which was a new consideration to incorporate into the design. Overall it was a great meeting and it reaffirmed that the CAG seemed to reflect community at large.

- Rik said that the way the workshop was run participants developed a level of trust with the project team because of the listening that occurred. *We did set a standard at the event, but we should continue to do better.*

Rob Berman added that he thought the workshop was very fluid. In his group, he heard input from a state patrolman as well as property owner. It struck him that there's a lot of balancing to look at as the project moves forward. Marcia said it was helpful for the team at the prior CAG meeting to have the CAG help the team think through all the information and tune up the presentations for the workshop. The next steps for the team will be to pull together a summary report so there is good documentation of the event. She then reviewed key points captured from the two report-out presentations and asked for additional comments from team members (see Understanding Priorities-Key Points and Developing Options-Key Points).

#### Comments/Questions:

- Don said he hoped the team learned about the travel shed and added that his team had comments about including gathering spaces.
- Rik noted his group included three Eagle Harbor Condominium residents, with a very strong emphasis on pedestrians and bikes. A lot of passengers also used cars and buses.
- Dolores said she was available to help with editing the summary. Her team focused on providing better multi-modal connections, especially with transit.
- Don said it was important to call attention to the aging population.
- Kevin said that there should be an understanding that WSF is an extension of the highway system. WSF won't exist unless it carries autos, so people will need to accept the fact that there will be autos.
- Janice added that it was stunning to be reminded of the amount of passenger growth projected for the terminal. People wanted car holding to not be oppressive and part of that was creating opportunities for people to get out of their vehicles, making the holding area itself less critical.
- Kevin said that adding the Chamber of Commerce Info Kiosk into the terminal as well as Commuter Comforts would add more ambience.
- Rik said one participant was engaged in the workshop because she didn't want the terminal to turn into Colman Dock with chain restaurants. She felt strongly only local businesses should remain.
- Don thought part of the project vision should have to do with drawing visitors to Bainbridge in off-peak hours. So far it has been a missed opportunity.
- Dolores reiterated that the team shouldn't just eliminate the idea of a double-deck, but they should develop a better model to get a sense of the proposed height. She thought there could be a compromise approach between the deck and holding. Participants felt widening the project area should be avoided. Adding windows to the overhead



loading could help with claustrophobia. People also reactively negatively to “spaghetti” circulation.

- Merrill suggested looking at examples of commuter trains in North Shore Lake Michigan.

Rob thanked CAG members for their additional feedback on the workshop. He noted that workshop participants felt a lot of work was needed to refine the design concepts. The project work plan over the next month included completing more detailed technical analyses. He asked CAG members for their thoughts as to what public involvement was needed over the next month.

#### Comments/Questions:

- Kevin thought that rider surveys would be helpful to the project team. People who came to the workshop were the most interested in the project, so the project team should look to solicit a wider range of feedback.
- Don suggested including an active sampling of tourists.
- Rik said the team should complete the first exercise as far as identifying the community priorities. It was premature to bring out refined concepts, but not to get at individual concerns. With a process like Winslow Tomorrow, it was great at eliminating the possibility of people coming in to provide feedback at the eleventh hour.
- Merrill said it was critical to get a statistically valid survey, with a good sampling.
- Kevin said WSF could pass-out a mail-in survey on boats, as well as offering it on-line.
- Janice asked how long it would take to fold in the input gathered at the workshop and then fine-tune concepts. *The first part of the workshop documentation includes about three weeks of work. Once this information is together, it will help us look at questions for a possible survey. As far as the concepts, we will want to see how the meeting process works out. Likely mid June-July.*
- Janice said that while the team is in a holding pattern, get back to participants as to what’s happening next and the summary. Perhaps have a booth or do something at the farmer’s market in the summer.
- Ann thought there was a benefit in writing thank-you notes to participants and would be willing to help.
- Don commented that he hoped WSF and the City could quickly work out a joint master planning agreement. He added that it bothered him that the ADA issue was connected with a symbol of a wheelchair on the stickers. Not all limitations are mobility limitations, such as hearing loss. In this case it would help to have a reader board with information. He said TVW offers good ways to address communication limitations. Also, he was offended at comments in the newspaper related to Homeland Security. He would hate to encourage this type of simplistic thinking about security.
- Janice had a similar response to the idea of security. The word has bad connotation. *We should talk about it in terms of safety.*
- Rik thought when the team synthesized feedback they should separate key issues from design details.



## Public Feedback

- Richard LaBotz shared his ideas for a solution for Winslow Way and 305. It would allow buses to come off the off-ramp going south to Cave Avenue. They would part where they exit from the parking lot. It would also expand holding up to High School Road. As far as project priorities, all items should be addressed in the final plan with a balanced solution. All users should be treated equally.
- Kirk Robinson participated in Rik's group. He said the biggest thank to participants would be for WSF to come out with response to show they listened. They should directly respond to all issues brought up, and if applicable, note why WSF decided to go in a different direction. Linkages between the four different groups at the workshop included attention to the Eagle Harbor faulty ingress/egress. One idea he heard was put all employee parking at the Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility. The Long-Range Plan needed to look at the impact of tele-commuting to their assumptions. One other thing was that ideas had individual components that would not match. As a member of the Tariff Policy Committee, he believed WSDOT has a responsibility to influence transportation choices. That was something this group and the CAG should look at. It is in the public good by reducing energy use and congestion. WSF should also separate out security and safety. One safety concern he has is that cars block fire safety equipment. The team should also look at how emergency access plays into the terminal design. A minor suggestion was for WSF to add a clock that could be viewed from the auto dock.

## Meeting Recap/Next Steps

Rob noted the next CAG meeting was proposed for June 7 and they would follow up with members to confirm the date will work for everyone. The team will also create a game plan for the next few months and send it to the CAG. Ann then thanked participants for their attendance and concluded the meeting.

## Action Items

- Provide a 3-D visualization of transit deck
- Look for other good examples of terminals
- Investigate possibility of conducting a rider survey
- Plan a project booth at summer farmer's markets
- Write thank-you notes to workshop participants and include a workshop summary
- Confirm next CAG meeting date
- Distribute the project work plan to the CAG



### **Committee Members**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>
X	Bernheisel	Ann
	Cahill	Carol
	Campbell	Bob
X	Dwyer	Kevin
	Elliott	Phedra
X	Langendoen	Rik
	Macchio	Lisa
X	Palomo	Dolores
X	Robison	Merrill
X	Shaw	Janice
	Whitlow	John
X	Willott	Don
	Topper	Paul

### **Project Team**

- Russ East, WSF
- Joy Goldenberg, WSF
- Michelle Elling, WSF
- Leonard Smith, WSF
- Rob Berman, KPFF
- Marcia Wagoner, PRR
- Kirsten Hauge, PRR

### **Public Participants**

- Julie Shryock, Bainbridge Island
- Richard LaBotz, Bainbridge Island
- Kirk Robinson, Bainbridge Island